Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A gene transfer vector comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope from a virus belonging to the herpesviridae family, wherein the ~~genome of the~~ virus is inactivated~~, and wherein the virus belongs to the herpesviridae family~~.

2. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 1, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type virus or a recombinant-type virus.

3. (canceled)

4. (withdrawn) The gene transfer vector according to claim 3, wherein the virus is HVJ.

5. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 1, wherein the gene transfer vector is prepared by a method which comprises the steps of:

mixing the virus with an exogenous gene;

inactivating the virus; and

freezing and thawing the mixture two or more times.

6. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 1, wherein the vector is prepared by a method which comprises a step of mixing the virus with an exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 6, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of octylglucoside, Triton-X100, CHAPS and NP-40.

9. (currently amended) The gene transfer vector according to claim 8, wherein the detergent is ~~octylglucosidase~~octylglucoside.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 1 for introducing a gene into animal in vivo tissue.

12. (previously presented) The gene transfer vector according to claim 11, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of the liver, skeletal muscles, the uterus, brain, eyes, carotid arteries, skin, blood vessels, the lung, the heart, kidneys, the spleen, cancer tissue, nerves, B lymphocytes, and respiratory tract tissue.

13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for gene therapy which comprises the gene transfer vector of any one of claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, or 11-12.

14. (previously presented) A kit for screening gene libraries, which comprises the gene transfer vector of any one of claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, or 11-12.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method for preparing the gene transfer vector of any one of claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, or 11-12, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

mixing the virus with the exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent; and

inactivating the virus.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for introducing a gene into isolated animal tissue, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

preparing the gene transfer vector of any one of claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-9, or 11-12 comprising:

(i) mixing the virus with the exogenous gene,

(ii) inactivating the virus; and

(iii) freezing and thawing the mixture two or more times; and

introducing the exogenous gene into the isolated animal tissue via the gene transfer vector.

19-22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

24. (canceled)

25. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the virus is HVJ.

26. (previously presented) The kit according to claim 14, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

27-29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

31-32. (canceled)